Claims:

1.   A system for pre-selecting a folder for a current message, the folder being one of a plurality of folders, the system comprising:

        (a) a storage module for storing the plurality of folders;

        (b) a communication module for receiving or transmitting the current message;

        (c) a folder pre-selection cache having n configurable entries, n being a predetermined positive integer greater than one, each configurable entry being configurable to record an associated pre-selection criterion for matching with the current message and an associated folder identification for identifying an associated folder in the plurality of folders;

        (d) a message comparison module for comparing a comparison criterion, derived from the current message, with the associated pre-selection criterion of at least one entry in the folder pre-selection cache to determine a matching entry in the folder pre-selection cache; and,

        (e) a folder pre-selection module for pre-selecting the folder identified by the associated folder identification of the matching entry when the message comparison module determines the matching entry in the folder pre-selection cache.

2.   The system as defined in claim 1 wherein when the message comparison module fails to determine the matching entry in the folder pre-selection cache, the folder pre-selection module is operable to select a default folder.

3.   The system as defined in claim 1 further comprising a user-interface means for selectably changing the positive integer n.

4.   The system as defined in claim 1 further comprising a cache-updating means for automatically changing the positive integer n based on available storage space in the storage module for the folder pre-selection cache.

5.   The system as defined in claim 1 further comprising a designation means for designating a plurality of the current messages, wherein

the message comparison module is operable to compare at least one comparison criterion, derived from at least one of the plurality of the current messages, with the associated pre-selection criterion of at least one entry in the folder pre-selection cache to determine the matching entry in the folder pre-selection cache; and,

the folder pre-selection module is operable to pre-select the folder for the plurality of the current messages.

6.   The system as defined in claim 1 wherein the comparison criterion is the current message.

7.   The system as defined in claim 1 wherein the system is a mobile communication device.

8.   The system as defined in claim 7 wherein the current message is from a server and comprises a server-determined folder identifier for identifying a server-determined folder for storing the current message.

9.   The system as defined in claim 8 wherein

the server-determined folder identifier has an assigned weight, the assigned weight being one of a first weight and a second weight;

when the server-determined folder identifier is of the first weight, the server-determined folder is pre-selected if the message comparison module fails to determine the matching entry in the folder pre-selection cache, and the

folder identified by the associated folder identification of the matching entry. is pre-selected if the message comparison module determines the matching entry in the folder pre-selection cache; and,

when the server-determined folder identifier is of the second weight, the server-determined folder is pre-selected.

10.   The system as defined in claim 1 further comprising a user-interface means for displaying the current message and the pre-selected folder, wherein the user-interface means comprises a folder selection module operable by a user.

11.   The system as defined in claim 10 wherein

the plurality of folders are for storing messages; and,

the folder selection module is operable by the user to allocate the current message to a user-selected folder in the plurality of folders.

12.   The system as defined in claim 11 further comprising a cache-updating means for updating the folder pre-selection cache based on up to n previous messages undergoing folder selection prior to the current message.

13.   The system as defined in claim 12 wherein

each message in the up to n messages is allocated to an associated user-selected folder in the plurality of folders;

the folder pre-selection cache includes a corresponding configurable entry for each message in the up to n messages; and,

the cache-updating means is operable, for each message in the up to n messages, to update the folder pre-selection cache by configuring the corresponding configurable entry in the folder pre-selection cache such that the

associated pre-selection criterion is derived from the message, and the associated folder identification of the corresponding entry identifies an associated user-selected folder previously selected for the message.

14. The system as defined in claim 13 wherein, when a message in the up to n messages is moved from a first folder in the plurality of folders to a second folder in the plurality of folders, the cache-updating means is operable to update the associated folder identification for the corresponding entry from identifying the first folder to identify the second folder.

15. The system as defined in claim 13 wherein the folder pre-selection cache comprises an entry replacement sub-module for updating the folder pre-selection cache when a new message is allocated to an associated user-selected folder by discarding an existing entry and adding a new corresponding entry for the new message.

16. The system as defined in claim 15 wherein

the folder pre-selection cache comprises a time-and-date sub-module for, for each message in the up to n messages, providing a time-and-date indicator to the corresponding entry for indicating when the message was allocated to an associated user-selected folder, and

the entry replacement sub-module is operable to update the folder pre-selection cache when the new message is allocated to the associated user-selected folder by discarding the existing entry having an oldest time-and-date stamp.

17. The system as defined in claim 15 further comprising a derivation sub-module for,

for each message in the up to n messages, deriving the associated pre-selection criterion from an associated selected attribute of the message; and,

deriving the comparison criterion from an associated selected attribute of the current message.

18.   The system as defined in claim 17 wherein for each message in the up to n messages, and for the current message, the associated selected attribute of the message comprises one of an associated sender/recipient attribute of the message, an associated subject attribute of the message, a time sent of the message, a message body contents of the message, and a message encoding of the message.

19.   The system as defined in claim 17 wherein the derivation sub-module comprises a hash determination means for,

for each message in the up to n messages, deriving the associated pre-selection criterion from the message by applying a hash function to the associated selected attribute; and,

for the current message, deriving the comparison criterion by applying the hash function to the associated selected attribute.

20.   The system as defined in claim 15 wherein

each entry in the folder pre-selection cache is ordered according to a search order;

the message comparison module is operable to compare the comparison criterion with the associated pre-selection criterion of each entry in the folder pre-selection cache according to the search order to determine a matching entry in the search order having an associated pre-selection criterion matching the comparison criterion; and,

the cache-updating means is operable, when the matching entry is not a first entry in the search order and is the user-selected folder, to advance the matching entry within the search order.

21.   The system as defined in claim 15 further comprising a restoration means for, when information is erased from the folder pre-selection cache, substantially restoring the folder pre-selection cache by processing each message in the plurality of folders in chronological order from an oldest message in the plurality of folders to a youngest message in the plurality of folders.

22.   The system as defined in claim 1 wherein

the plurality of folders comprises a plurality of file folders for storing a plurality of potentially attachable files; and,

the folder selection module is operable by the user to select from the plurality of file folders an associated user-selected file folder for an associated attachment file for the current message.

23.   The system as defined in claim 22 further comprising a cache-updating means for updating the folder pre-selection cache based on up to n. previous messages undergoing folder selection prior to the current message wherein each message in the up to n previous messages includes an associated attachment file.

24.   The system as defined in claim 23 wherein

the folder pre-selection cache includes a corresponding configurable entry for each message in the up to n messages; and,

the cache-updating means is operable, for each message in the up to n messages, to update the folder pre-selection cache by configuring the corresponding configurable entry in the folder pre-selection cache such that the

associated pre-selection criterion is derived from the message, and the associated folder identification of the corresponding entry identifies an associated user-selected folder previously selected for the associated attachment file.

25.   The system as defined in claim 23 further comprising a derivation sub-module for,

for each message in the up to n messages, deriving the associated pre-selection criterion from an associated selected attribute of the message; and,

deriving the comparison criterion from an associated selected attribute of the current message.

26.   The system as defined in claim 25 wherein for each message in the up to n messages, and for the current message, the associated selected attribute of the message comprises one of an associated sender/recipient attribute of the message, an associated subject attribute of the message, a time sent of the current message, and a message encoding of the message.

27.   The system as defined in claim 26 wherein the derivation sub-module comprises a hash determination means for,

for each message in the up to n messages, deriving the associated pre-selection criterion from the message by applying a hash function to the associated selected attribute; and,

for the current message, deriving the comparison criterion by applying the hash function to the associated selected attribute.

28.   The system as defined in claim 22 further comprising a cache-updating means for updating the folder pre-selection cache based on up to n previously edited attachments stored in the plurality of file folders.

29.   A method of pre-selecting a folder for storing a current message, the folder being one of a plurality of folders, the method comprising:

(a) providing a folder pre-selection cache having n configurable entries, n being a predetermined positive integer greater than one, each configurable entry being configured to include an associated pre-selection criterion for matching with the current message, and an associated folder identification for identifying an associated folder in the plurality of folders;

(b) for at least one entry in the folder pre-selection cache, comparing a comparison criterion, obtained from the current message, with the associated pre-selection criterion to determine a matching entry in the folder pre-selection cache; and,

(c) pre-selecting the folder identified by the associated folder identification of the matching entry when the message comparison module determines the matching entry in the folder pre-selection cache.

30.   The method as defined in claim 29 further comprising pre-selecting a default folder for receiving the current message when step (b) fails to determine the matching entry in the folder pre-selection cache.

31.   The method as defined in claim 29 further comprising changing the positive integer n based on available storage space.

32.   The method as defined in claim 29 further comprising designating a plurality of current messages and pre-selecting the folder for storing the plurality of current messages.

33.   The method as defined in claim 29 further comprising

reviewing the current message for a server-determined folder identifier having an assigned weight wherein the assigned weight is one of a first weight and a second weight;

when the server-determined folder identifier is of the first weight, pre-selecting the server-determined folder if the message comparison module fails to determine the matching entry in the folder pre-selection cache, and pre-selecting the folder identified by the associated folder identification of the matching entry when the message comparison module determines the matching entry in the folder pre-selection cache; and,

when the server-determined folder identifier is of the second weight, pre-selecting the server-determined folder.

34.   The method as defined in claim 29 wherein the comparison criterion is the current message.

35.   The method as defined in claim 29 further comprising: (d) providing a folder selection function to a user for selecting a user-selected folder from the plurality of folders for the current message.

36.   The method as defined in claim 35 wherein

the plurality of folders are for storing messages; and,

the method further comprises selecting the user-selected folder from the plurality of folders for storing the current message.

37.   The method as defined in claim 36 wherein step (a) comprises configuring the folder pre-selection cache based on up to n previous messages undergoing folder selection prior to the current message.

38.   The method as defined in claim 37 wherein

each message in the up to n messages is allocated to an associated user-selected folder in the plurality of folders;

the folder pre-selection cache includes a corresponding configurable entry for each message in the up to n messages; and,

step (a) further comprises, for each message in the up to n messages, updating the folder pre-selection cache by configuring the corresponding configurable entry in the folder pre-selection cache such that the associated pre-selection criterion is derived from the message, and the associated folder identification of the corresponding entry identifies the associated user-selected folder.

39.   The method as defined in claim 38 wherein, when a message in the up to n messages is moved from a first folder in the plurality of folders to a second folder in the plurality of folders, step (a) further comprises updating the associated folder identification for the corresponding entry from identifying the first folder to identify the second folder.

40.   The method as defined in claim 38 wherein step (a) further comprises updating the folder pre-selection cache when a new message is allocated to an associated user-selected folder by discarding an existing entry and adding a new corresponding entry for the new message.

41.   The method as defined in claim 40 wherein

for each message in the up to n messages, step (a) further comprises providing in the corresponding configurable entry a time-and-date indicator for indicating when the message was message was allocated to an associated user-selected folder, and

the folder pre-selection cache is updated when the new message is allocated to the user-selected folder by discarding the existing entry having an

oldest time-and-date indicator and adding the new corresponding entry for the new message.

42.   The method as defined in claim 40 wherein

for each message in the up to n messages, the associated pre-selection criterion is derived from an associated selected attribute of the message; and,

the comparison criterion is derived from an associated selected attribute of the current message.

43.   The method as defined in claim 42 wherein for each message in the up to n messages, and for the current message, the associated selected attribute of the message comprises one of an associated sender/recipient attribute of the message, an associated subject attribute of the message, a time sent of the current message, a message body contents of the current message, and a message encoding of the current message.

44.   The method as defined in claim 42 wherein for each message in the up to n messages, the associated pre-selection criterion is derived from an associated selected attribute of the message by applying a hash function to the associated selected attribute, and the comparison criterion is derived from an associated selected attribute of the current message by applying the hash function to the associated selected attribute.

45.   The method as defined in claim 38 wherein

each entry in the folder pre-selection cache is ordered according to a search order;

step (b) comprises comparing the comparison criterion with the associated pre-selection criterion of each entry in the folder pre-selection cache according to the search order; and

step (c) comprises determining a matching entry in the search order having an associated pre-selection criterion matching the comparison criterion, and pre-selecting the folder identified by the associated folder identification of the first entry;

wherein the method further comprises, when the matching entry is not a first entry in the search order and is the user-selected folder, advancing the matching entry within the search order.

46.   The method as defined in claim 38 further comprising, when information is erased from the folder pre-selection cache, substantially restoring the folder pre-selection cache by, for each message in the plurality of folders in chronological order from an oldest message in the plurality of folders to a youngest message in the plurality of folders, performing steps (a), (b) and (c).

47.   The method as defined in claim 29 wherein the plurality of folders comprises a plurality of file folders for storing a plurality of potentially attachable files.

48.   The method as defined in claim 47 further comprising updating the folder pre-selection cache based on up to n previous messages undergoing folder selection prior to the current message wherein each message in the up to n previous messages includes an associated attachment file.

49.   The method as defined in claim 48 wherein.

the folder pre-selection cache includes a corresponding configurable entry for each message in the up to n messages; and,

step (a) further comprises, for each message in the up to n messages, updating the folder pre-selection cache by configuring the corresponding configurable entry in the folder pre-selection cache such that the associated pre-selection criterion is derived from the message, and the associated folder identification of the corresponding entry identifies an associated user-selected folder previously selected for the associated attachment file.

50.   The method as defined in claim 49 further comprising a derivation sub-module for,

for each message in the up to n messages, deriving the associated pre-selection criterion from an associated selected attribute of the message; and,

deriving the comparison criterion from an associated selected attribute of the current message.

51.   The method as defined in claim 49 wherein for each message in the up to n messages, and for the current message, the associated selected attribute of the message comprises one of an associated sender/recipient attribute of the message, an associated subject attribute of the message, a time sent of the current message, and a message encoding of the message.

52.   The method as defined in claim 51 wherein for each message in the up to n messages, the associated pre-selection criterion is derived from an associated selected attribute of the message by applying a hash function to the associated selected attribute, and the comparison criterion is derived from an associated selected attribute of the current message by applying the hash function to the associated selected attribute.

53.   The method as defined in claim 47 further comprising updating the folder pre-selection cache based on up to n previously edited attachments stored in the plurality of file folders.

54.   A computer program product for use on a computer system to pre-select a folder for a current message, the folder being one of a plurality of folders, the computer program product comprising:

a recording medium;

means recorded on the recording medium for configuring the computer to perform the steps of:

(a) providing a folder pre-selection cache having n configurable entries, n being a predetermined positive integer greater than one, each configurable entry being configured to include an associated pre-selection criterion for matching with the current message, and an associated folder identification for identifying an associated folder in the plurality of folders;

(b) for at least one entry in the folder pre-selection cache, comparing a comparison criterion, obtained from the current message, with the associated pre-selection criterion to determine a matching entry in the folder pre-selection cache; and,

(c) pre-selecting the folder identified by the associated folder identification of the matching entry when the message comparison module determines the matching entry in the folder pre-selection cache.